

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

Dilfonso Vergara, individually and on behalf of other employees similarly situated, Plaintiffs
v.
GranitePol & Home Design Center, Inc., and Sylvia Skorska-Placek, individually, Defendants

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Plaintiff Dilfonso Vergara, individually, and on behalf of other employees similarly situated, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, commonly known as the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) and 820 ILCS § 105/1 *et seq.*, commonly known as the Illinois Minimum Wage Law (“IMWL”), and complains against Defendants GranitePol & Home Design Center, Inc., (“GranitePol”) and Sylvia Skorska-Placek (“Skorska-Placek”), collectively (“Defendants”), and in support, states:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action seeks redress for Defendants’ willful violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* (“FLSA”), and the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS § 105/1 *et seq.* (“IMWL”), for Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek.
2. Defendants’ unlawful compensation practices have, and have had, the effect of denying Plaintiff and other similarly situated Plaintiffs their earned and living wages.
3. Plaintiff’s FLSA collective action consent form is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Honorable Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal wage claims through 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) (FLSA), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and 28 U.S.C. §1337 (actions arising under acts of Congress relating to commerce).
5. This Honorable Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the Illinois wage claims through 28 U.S.C. § 1337 because they are so related to Plaintiff's claims within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.
6. Venue is properly placed in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, through 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b), because the facts and events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this judicial district.

THE PARTIES

Plaintiff

7. Plaintiff resides and is domiciled in Lake County, Illinois, and was employed by Defendants in Cook County, Illinois, which is in this judicial district.
8. During the course of his employment, Plaintiff handled goods that moved or that were intended to move in interstate commerce and was an "employee" as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §201 *et seq.*, and the IMWL, 820 ILCS 105/1 *et seq.*

Defendants

9. Defendant GranitePol is an entity doing business within this judicial district and is an "enterprise" as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r)(1), engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1)(A).
10. Based on information and belief, Defendant GranitePol has annual gross sales of \$500,000.00 or more.

11. Defendant GranitePol was Plaintiff's "employer" as that term is defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), and the IMWL, 820 ILCS § 105/3.
12. Defendant Skorska-Placek is the owner of GranitePol and is involved in the day-to-day business operations and has the authority to hire and fire employees, the authority to direct and supervise the work of employees, the authority to sign on the business's checking accounts, including payroll accounts, and has the authority to participate in decisions regarding employee compensation and capital expenditures.
13. Defendant Skorska-Placek was Plaintiffs' "employer" as that term is defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), the IMWL, and 820 ILCS § 105/3.
14. Upon information and belief, Defendant Skorska-Placek resides and is domiciled in this judicial district.
15. Upon information and belief, a notice of employee rights under the FLSA, with content prescribed by the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor, was not posted in a conspicuous area of the workplace as required by the FLSA.

FACTS

16. Plaintiff worked for Defendant GranitePol from on or about February 10, 2012 until September 15, 2014.
17. Plaintiff worked for Defendant as a general laborer.
18. During the course of his employment, Plaintiff's work activities engaged him individually in commerce.
19. During the course of his employment, Plaintiff handled goods that moved in interstate commerce.

20. During the course of his employment, Defendants directed Plaintiff to work, and Plaintiff did work, in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek.
21. Plaintiff worked for Defendants on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
22. Plaintiff was paid \$650.00 weekly.
23. Plaintiff was paid \$350.00 by check and \$300.00 in cash.
24. Plaintiff did not receive overtime wages at time and a half his regular hourly rate despite working more than forty (40) hours per week.
25. Plaintiff was paid his regular hourly rate for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek.
26. Plaintiff was not, and at all relevant times has not been, exempt from the overtime provisions of the FLSA and IMWL.

COUNT I: VIOLATION OF THE FLSA
Overtime Wages

27. Plaintiff re-incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
28. Plaintiff was directed by Defendants to work, and did so work, in excess of forty (40) hours per week.
29. Defendants did not compensate Plaintiff or members of the class at a rate of at least one and one-half (1.5) times their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in their individual workweeks.
30. Defendants' failure and refusal to pay overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week was a willful violation of the FLSA.

31. Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees are entitled to recover unpaid overtime wages for up to three (3) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit because Defendant's failure to pay overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week was a willful violation of the FLSA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and the class respectfully request that this Honorable Court:

- A. Determine that this action may be maintained as a collective action pursuant to the FLSA.
- B. Enter a judgment in the amount of unpaid overtime wages for all time worked by Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks;
- C. Award liquidated damages in an amount equal to the amount of unpaid overtime wages;
- D. Declare Defendants to be in violation of the FLSA;
- E. Enjoin Defendants from violating the FLSA;
- F. Award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- G. Grant such additional or alternative relief as this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II: VIOLATION OF THE ILLINOIS MINIMUM WAGE LAW
Overtime Wages

- 32. Plaintiff re-incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 33. This Count arises from Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks in violation of the IMWL.
- 34. Defendants directed Plaintiff to work, and Plaintiff did work, in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks.
- 35. Other similarly situated employees were likewise directed to work, and did work, in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks.

36. Plaintiff was entitled to be paid overtime wages for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks.
37. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff overtime wages for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks.
38. Defendants violated the IMWL by failing to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for all hours worked in individual work weeks.
39. Pursuant to 820 ILCS 105/12(a), Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid wages for three (3) years prior to the filing of this suit.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

- A. Enter a judgment in the amount of overtime wages due to Plaintiff as provided by the IMWL;
- B. Award Statutory damages for Plaintiff pursuant to the formula set forth in 820 ILCS § 105/12(a) and 815 ILCS § 205/2;
- C. Declare that Defendants have violated the IMWL;
- D. Enjoin Defendants from violating the IMWL;
- E. Award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of this action as provided by the IMWL; and
- F. Grant such other and further relief as this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Raisa Alicea

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